



**Ombudspersons:**  
Offering a helping hand

UNO designates three people to go to when you have a conflict to resolve.

**NEWS**  
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# gateway

UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA AT OMAHA SINCE 1913

Mavericks pick up first-ever MIAA conference win

UNO goes 25-15, 25-21, 25-22 over Missouri Southern at the Sapp Fieldhouse.

**SPORTS**  
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VOLUME 08 | ISSUE 07

FRIDAY | SEPTEMBER 19, 2008

## Update: UNO student hit by drunken driver

**KIRBY KAUFMAN**  
NEWS EDITOR

Last Friday evening, UNO student Justin J. Reese was hit by a pickup truck while driving in his red Ford Escort going north on 84th and H streets, said the Nebraska State Patrol.

Around 7:45 p.m. on Sept. 12, shortly after the crash, Trooper C.J. Alberico drove upon the accident. She estimated there were 10 bystanders.

"When I approached, the occupant of the Ford Escort, it appeared that there had been head trauma, so EMS was called to the scene," Alberico said.

Reese was transported by Omaha Fire and Rescue to the Nebraska Medical Center.

Daniel Jensen, 52, was arrested for suspicion of driving under the influence. He was charged with first-offense driving under the influence, failure to yield the right of way and a DUI resulting in bodily injury — a class III felony, said the State Patrol.

"Jensen ran a stop sign [as] he was turning south onto 84th Street, and Reese would have been going northbound on 84th," said Trooper Steven Peck. "They collided, and Reese's vehicle continued northbound until it was stopped by a tree near a [gas station]."

According to Nebraska statutes, a class III felony is punishable up to 20 years imprisonment, maximum of a \$25,000 fine or both. There is also a minimum of one year in prison.

Reese was still listed as in critical condition at 5:54 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 17.

A Facebook group "PRAYING for Justin Reese," created by Reese's girlfriend Jacque Albertson, continues to grow since last weekend. On Wednesday night, it had over 500 members.

Bret O'Doherty one of Reese's fraternity brothers of Sigma Phi Epsilon refused to comment on his condition citing family wishes.

Reese's family remains adamant about not wanting any media attention.

The Omaha World-Herald reported Tuesday that a Douglas County judge set bail for Jensen at \$20,000. That means he had to pay \$2,000 to be released from jail.

## Mother testifies in murder trial for slain UNO nursing student

**SCOTT STEWART**  
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Holding a tissue in her hand, the mother of a slain UNO student took the stand on Wednesday in the trial of the man accused of murdering her daughter.

Sumilia Gunter, the mother of Brittany Williams, recounted the final hours of her daughter's life.

"Sunday was usually her day to be at home," Gunter said. Williams spent the earlier portion of Sunday, Jan. 20, watching a movie with her mother and two younger sisters. She then went to dinner with her friend Tyeshia Cobb.

Williams told one of her younger sisters it was "big girl time" when asked if the sister could come along, Gunter recalled in her testimony. Williams left around 5:30 p.m., taking her Ford Focus with license plate "LIL BREE" to meet her friend.

After dinner, Gunter said her daughter then called home to ask if her sisters had eaten. Gunter told her that her father got off a 12-hour shift at midnight and suggested she bring home some Kentucky Fried Chicken.

It was the last time Gunter heard from her daughter, she told the courtroom.

Williams drove to the Kentucky Fried Chicken/Long John Silver's at 7601 N. 30th St. and ordered 20 hot wings, according to testimony.

As she placed her order, Kyle Bormann took a high-powered rifle and shot her from over 100 yards away. Williams was dead on the scene.

Bormann trial for the first-



BRITTANY WILLIAMS



KYLE BORMANN

degree murder of Williams began Monday in Douglas County District Courtroom No. 1 with jury selection. Opening statements were made Wednesday morning, followed by testimony from Gunter, Cobb, the manager of the restaurant and an officer who responded to the scene.

Under Nebraska law, first-degree murder is defined as killing another person "purposely and with deliberate and premeditated malice." It carries either the death sentence or life imprisonment without

parole.

Prosecutors are focusing on comments made by Bormann after he was apprehended having driven through the crime scene.

"I imagine I was pissed off at black people," Bormann told police that night. He said he was upset because of a "bogus call" against the Green Bay Packers in a game earlier that day.

During jury selection, references were made to a four-hour taped interview police conducted with Bormann. Much of the case rests on that interview: was Bormann prompted by police to make racist remarks, was he too intoxicated to commit premeditated murder or was he in control the whole time?

The racially charged comments could mean the death sentence if Bormann is convicted, as they might constitute aggravating circumstances to earn the harsher penalty.

Tom Riley, Bormann's public defender, quizzed potential jurors on a variety of topics germane to the case. Did candidates understand the law? Did they have any experience with hunting rifles? Did they have any racial prejudices?

Riley also asked candidates whether they believed a person could drink so much they blacked out, forgetting their actions. Bormann's intoxication is expected to feature prominently in the defense's case.

The trial was scheduled to resume with testimony on Thursday and carry into next week.

The most emotional part of the testimony, however, likely has already seen its day in court.

During Cobb's testimony,

SEE **TRIAL**: PAGE 6

## Proposal calls for reduced age to buy alcohol

**MARK REAGAN**  
STAFF WRITER

The word 'amethyst' has a specific history. Its root is from the Greek word 'amethystos.' 'A' means 'not' in Greek, while 'methyskein' means 'make drunk' and 'methys' means 'wine.'

The Greeks believed an amethyst, a purple gemstone, would prevent drunkenness and instill moderation when drinking.

In July 2008, John McCardell, president emeritus of Middlebury College in Vermont and founder of Choose Responsibility, launched the Amethyst Initiative. The initiative seeks to open a national discussion on lowering the drinking age.

The institute's position is the legal drinking age of 21 doesn't work to curb irresponsible drinking.

The Amethyst Initiative gathered a collection of 130 signatures from presidents and chancellors from schools across the United States.

"As far as the Amethyst Initiative is concerned," said UNO spokeswoman Wendy Townley in an e-mail, "it's something UNO has not looked at; so, at this time, we do not have a position on lowering the drinking age to 18."

The Amethyst Initiative has garnered the support of some big names in the college world including the Notre Dame, Dartmouth, Duke, Naropa and Ohio State. So far no Nebraska colleges or universities have signed on.

The initiative has met more criticism than it has support.

SEE **ALCOHOL**: PAGE 6

## Facebook blocking prolific users, calling them spammers

**JAMIE BELL**  
STAFF WRITER

A mid-afternoon stroll through the Milo Bail Student Center will demonstrate one well-known fact: UNO students enjoy their Facebook.

With the popular social networking tool reaching a total user population of over 100 million, the Web site has gained unprecedented popularity — and unprecedented attacks. Facebook has been consistently working on protecting users from spammers and unwanted soliciting.

A new attempt to halt spamming, however, has resulted

in the banning of many users for, essentially, being "too social."

According to an article by Kim Hart in the Washington Post, Facebook user Elizabeth Coe was banned from using the site after she sent messages to 100 friends with a simple link to her company Web site. Coe was booted for what Facebook said was "persistent misuse of the site."

The Washington Post reported that Brandee Barker, the company's director of corporate communications, explained, "Accounts may have been deactivated not necessarily because of their activity, but



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- Keep up with friends and family
- Share photos and videos
- Control privacy online
- Reconnect with old classmates

Find your Friends on Facebook

Search by Name

or Use the Friend Finder

Face with

because of the precautions we've taken."

Those who are booted from the site are able to contact Facebook and get their accounts reinstated if they can prove they did nothing wrong, Barker said.

Many users, however, feel that these Facebook precautions are contrary to the site's primary mission.

Freshman Cameron Patrick voiced opposition to Facebook's attempts to block spammers, because the reason it exists is to allow users to socialize.

"That takes the point of Facebook away," Patrick said.

SEE **FACEBOOK**: PAGE 6



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6001 Dodge Street  
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## Zero net energy test home construction underway

KAREN COLLINS  
CONTRIBUTOR

UNO is helping bring the first zero net energy home to the Nebraska.

Students from the Durham School of Architectural Engineering and Construction - which is housed at the Peter Kiewit Institute - along with USGBC Flatwater Chapter, the Green Omaha Coalition and local vendors are bringing the first LEED Platinum certified project to Nebraska.

Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design sets and certifies nationally recognized standards for the design and construction of green buildings. Platinum is the highest rating and requires compliance with stringent standards.

The collaborative effort to create the 3,000-square-foot home at 6454 Woolworth Ave., just north of Scott Residence Hall, is as impressive as the home itself.

Drawing from the PKI philosophy of bringing academic and business communities together, the ZNETH - zero net energy test home - project has the potential to change the future of residential building in Nebraska.

One hundred architectural and engineering students contributed designs which were incorporated into a final plan donated by Tim Hemsath, architect, Professor of Architecture at UNL and Chair of the Flatwater Chapter of the U.S. Green Building Council.

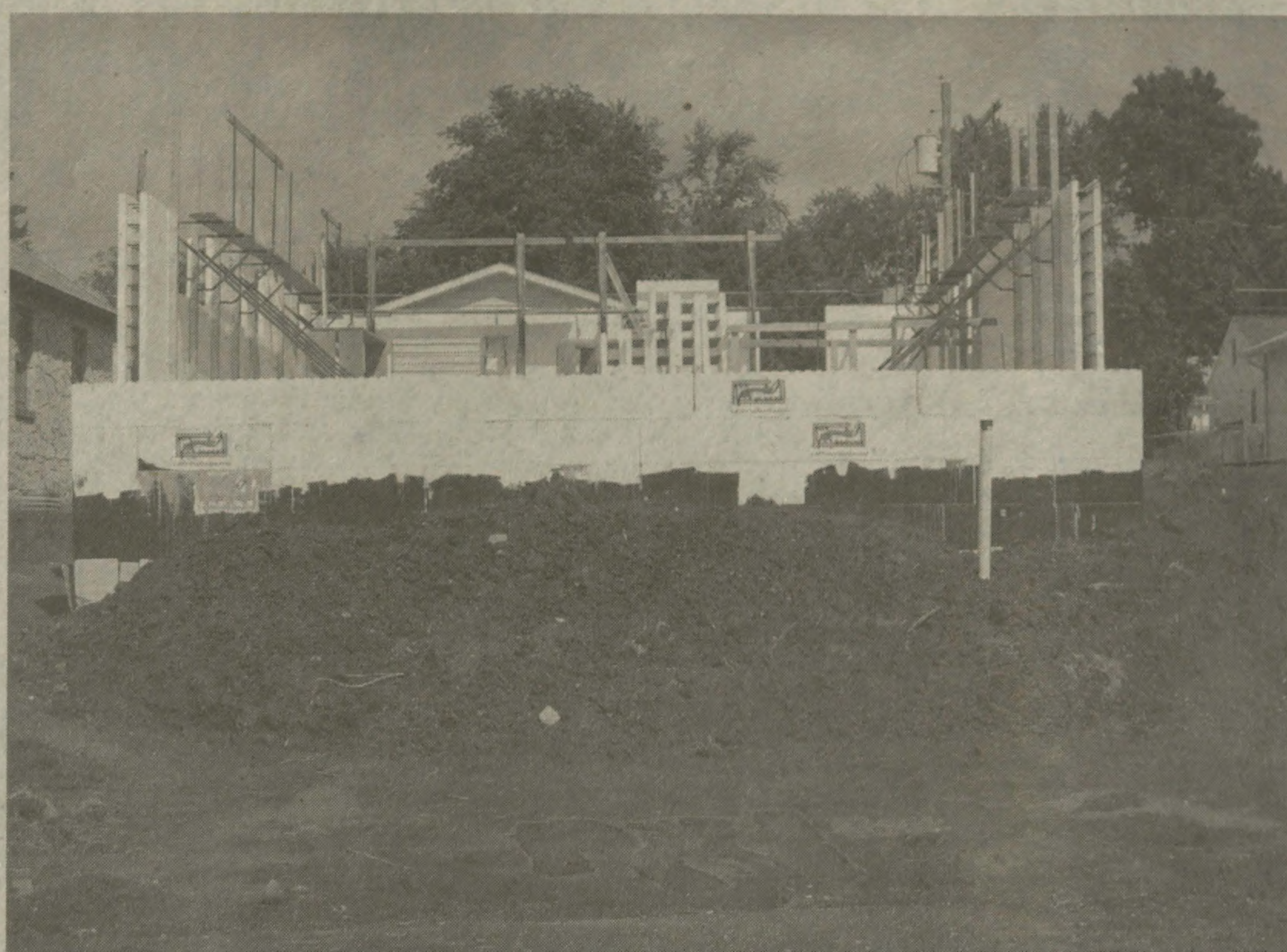
Project manager Steven Cross said construction labor for the home will be provided by 100 students working four days a week. Cross, a PKI student majoring in construction engineering and history, is responsible for ordering materials, scheduling and construction for the project.

"So far, we've produced only five garbage cans of trash in the construction of this home," Cross said. "That is unheard of. A typical home at this stage of construction would have produced many times that amount."

The project has recycled four trailers of concrete; scrap from the concrete forms, lumber "and even a large tree stump," Cross said. No recyclable materials will be trashed.

Materials and labor have been donated by a number of sources outside the university. Fox Blocks, a division of Airlite Plastics Co., has provided the insulated concrete forms.

The basement and first floor of the home will be built of ICFs. The second floor will be framed. Even without the windows and doors, which have not yet



The ZNETH project is being constructed at 6454 Woolworth Avenue. (COURTESY MICHAEL TYLER)

been installed, the basement is remarkably quieter than the exterior of the home because Fox Blocks insulates sound as well as temperature.

The floor trusses in the basement were placed 16 inches apart on one side; 26 inches apart on the other. These patterns will be carefully observed to determine if materials can be minimized in future construction projects without compromising the stability of the floors.

R.J. McClemons from Lowe's has volunteered many hours performing preliminary product research, supervised by Cross, to ensure that products purchased for the project comply with certification regulations. McClemons also helped lay out the initial footprint of the home.

One of the products McClemons researched is an adhesive that was used to secure the floor trusses. Typically, the volatile organic compound content in such an adhesive is around 30 grams per liter. The adhesive used in the ZNETH contains 3 grams per liter.

The sealant used on the exterior of the basement is a zero VOC product. VOCs contribute to air, soil and groundwater pollution.

Radon is also being addressed in the ZNETH

project.

"There will be no radon in this house," Cross said.

Currently, a pipe stands in the basement floor that is part of a passive radon collection system that will draw radon out using negative pressure.

The home has been described as "a sustainable living laboratory," by Avery Schwer, graduate chairman of the Durham School's engineering - construction program.

"Graduate students will be living in the home after its completion," Schwer said. "They will calibrate the features of the home."

One goal of this process is for the home to produce more energy than it uses. Termed "net-metering," it will produce excess energy via the solar, geo-thermal and other systems that will be stored and returned at wholesale pricing to the energy company.

The energy can then be used to provide electrical power to other homes in the neighborhood. Implications for future building and operation of residential dwellings are significant.

Documentation gathered by the graduate students will provide a wealth of information for future builders and homeowners as well.

## Gouttierre spoke on Afghan terrorism on 9/11

LIZ E. ROGERS  
STAFF WRITER

Last Thursday on the anniversary of 9/11, Thomas Gouttierre, dean of the UNO International Studies Department, gave a talk about terrorism at Creighton University.

Gouttierre's lecture, titled "Afghanistan at a Crossroads: Between Terror and Democracy," brought up such issues as Afghanistan's cultural heritage, the current security problems in the country's provinces and the complex composition of the Middle Eastern countries of Iraq, Iran, Israel, Palestine and Pakistan.

In regard to the culture of Afghanistan, Gouttierre spoke about the country's historical title as "the crossroads of Asia," its historical ties to and belief in democratic governance and the richness of its Indo-European, Arabic-scripted language. He mentioned that in Afghanistan today there are mosques and minarets which date back to Tamerlane.

Gouttierre's lecture also brought up Afghanistan's various troubles.

Afghanistan is a country characterized by a congested Kabul from which non-governmental and government organizations alike cannot migrate given the failure of security in the provinces, Gouttierre said. Its agriculture focuses on opium poppies rather than on the wheat and rice production of the past.

The country, Gouttierre said, has also been hijacked by the Taliban, whose influence is most powerful over those in poverty, without access to education and without employment and training opportunities.

Gouttierre said corruption is rampant and donated funds

of Pashtun, an extremely rugged, 1,500 mile stretch to which much terrorist activity has been traced. He mentioned these as the mountains along Afghanistan's border with Pakistan, where Osama bin Laden has long been suspected of hiding.

Gouttierre singled out Pakistan as the No. 1 issue in terms of the war on terror. That country's worldview, he explained, is one totally bent towards dealings with India and, without the protection that can only be afforded by a stable Pakistan, Afghanistan won't be able to progress.

"There's no state in the union that knows more per capita about Afghanistan than Nebraska," Gouttierre said.

Gouttierre backed this

claim with a list of programs that exist in this state including the Center for Afghanistan Studies, which he directs at UNO; the work of the Omaha Knights of Columbus and the National Guard; the UNMC Health Education Project in Afghanistan; and the contributions of the Rotary Club.

The lecture, presented by the Asian World Center and the Werner Institute for Negotiation and Dispute Resolution at Creighton, was part of the AWC Distinguished Lecture and Werner Institute Speaker Series.



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# Ombudspersons office give informal problem solving to UNO community

MARK REAGAN  
STAFF WRITER

Ombudspersons are neutral officials who investigate and receive complaints. They are present on a large scale in America. Corporations have them, academic institutions have them and so do many other organizations.

UNO has three: Tracie Anderson, assistant director of New Student Orientation; Mark Scherer, associate professor of history; and Ronda Sheibal-Carver, staff assistant in Public Administration.

UNO's ombudspersons come from three segments of the university in order to retain diversity. Anderson represents the managerial segment, Scherer represents the faculty and Sheibal-Carver represents staff.

They all perform the same function and a complaint can be taken to any of them.

"The goal is to have several individuals

been affiliated with UNO for 20 years. She said she is excited to be an ombudsperson.

"I don't want people to be in the situation where they have to use an ombudsperson," Anderson said. "It can be really in depth and challenging, so it can be a struggle."

It's important to have an ombudsperson because it makes people feel like they can have their problem addressed if the usual procedures have not been effective, Anderson said.

Scherer is also new to the ombudsperson position. He said Ulmar may have chosen him for his background in law. He is fluent in legal history, constitutional history and Native American legal history. He also used to be a lawyer.

Yet, there is only so much an ombudsperson can do to help someone with a problem. They don't have any real authority. All they can do is suggest a means to settle a conflict.

KIRBY KAUFMAN  
NEWS EDITOR

Microsoft is offering college students a great deal on software.

The company is bringing back their "Ultimate Steal" program to college campuses across the United States. The program consists of giving students a bargain price of \$59.95 for Microsoft Office Ultimate 2007. The package includes Word, PowerPoint, Outlook, Access, Publisher, OneNote, Groove and InfoPath.

There are some differences, however, with this year's promotion.

Not only does the package come with Microsoft Office software but it also includes an upgrade to Windows Vista Ultimate, Microsoft Office Visio Professional 2007 and Microsoft Office Language Packs.

The bookstore retails Microsoft Office Ultimate 2007 for \$399.99 and the student price is \$139.99. To be eligible for the student price a person must have a valid student ID.

The Ultimate Steal prices it for \$59.95 and the purchaser must be a student of UNO to get it for that price. The bookstore also offers Microsoft Office Professional and Enterprise at discounted prices.

The main drawback is the Ultimate Steal cannot be upgraded.

Also, if the purchaser would happen to lose the CD, they cannot receive a replacement or buy a new one for exactly



In addition to Microsoft software, the UNO Bookstore offers Adobe products, computer algebra systems and other software programs. (KIRBY KAUFMAN/THE GATEWAY)

one year from the date of purchased it. According to the Microsoft Retail License Terms you can install the retail version on your desktop and a portable source (laptop).

The Ultimate Steal version offered in the bookstore does not come with a manual or box. It is just a CD in a Microsoft sleeve. Tech support is not available for the product either.

The alternative to participating in the Ultimate Steal program would be spending over \$600 to purchase Office 2008, which offers only a few improvements to the 2007 program.

With all new software, too, there are often bugs that need to be troubleshooted. Because of bugs, UNO Bookstore Manager Mike Schmidt said UNO waits a while before implementing new software like Office 2008.

"The university never installs the latest versions until the bugs and kinks are fixed," Schmidt said.



It can be really  
in depth and  
challenging, so it  
can be a struggle.

Tracie Anderson is one of three ombudspersons on campus. (ANDREA BARBE/THE GATEWAY)

identified on campus that faculty, staff or students can speak to for resolution of their concerns," Sharon Ulmar, assistant to the chancellor for Diversity and Equality Opportunity.

Ulmar is the one who chooses the ombudspersons. She said the university wants people who can stay neutral, make independent decisions and resolve problems, concerns or complaints in an informal manner.

Important skills for an ombudsperson are "conflict resolution, organizational knowledge, sensitivity to diversity, integrity, excellent communication and listening skills, analytical skills and someone who can maintain confidentiality," Ulmar said.

Anderson is a new ombudsman and has

"I have come to the conclusion that there may not be a whole lot I can do to fix something," Scherer said. "And yet, I think there is some comfort by just having someone around who is willing to listen."

Sheibal-Carver has been an ombudsperson for a little over a year. She has been in the UNO system for over 22 years.

There are four important attributes to strive for as an ombudsperson Sheibal-Carver said: impartiality, independence, informality and confidentiality.

"My basic job is to find out what the situation is – the conflict, or the problem – and to find out what's really going on and to help that person find the best scenario to resolve it," Sheibal-Carver said.

## Campus celebrates document

AARON SCHUREVICH  
CONTRIBUTOR

The place was Philadelphia, Pa. The date was Sept. 17, 1787. The Constitutional Convention convened all 55 members to birth the Constitution of The United States of America.

In 2002, President Bush proclaimed the week of Sept. 17 "Constitution Week" in an effort to commemorate the signing of the foundational document of the United States.

Throughout the week, UNO joined colleges across the country to celebrate Constitution Week

In the Criss Library, artwork by the young people of Camp Fire USA, a not-for-profit charity, has been on display. The kids were asked to draw what freedom meant to them, and the results are certainly varied.

Students from Abbie Sryek's Speech 2120 Argumentation and Debate class gathered in the Fireplace Lounge of the Milo Bail Student Center to offer speeches discussing the concept of patriotism.

"I was contacted by Paul Sather, director of the UNO Service Learning Academy," Sryek said, "He asked if I could help coordinate an event on campus to celebrate Constitution

SEE DOCUMENT: PAGE 7

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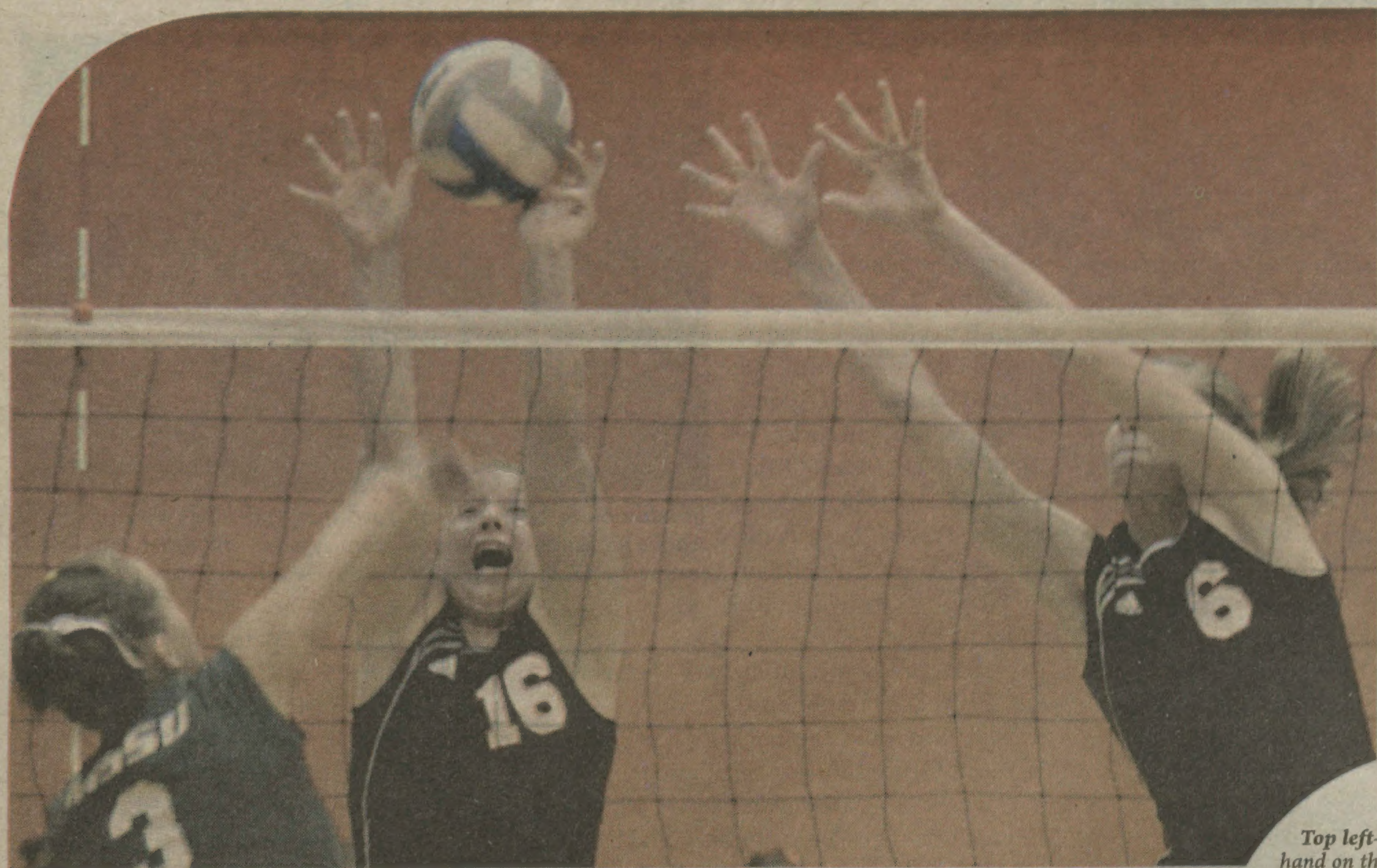
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**Top left-** Jamie Tooley gets a hand on the ball hit by Missouri Southern's Stefanie Williams as Lizzy Mach (right) helps defend.

**Top right -** Sara Kampschnieder watches as the ball flies just over the block of Missouri Southern's Brittany Vavao-Huggins (13) and Ashlee Russell (10).

**Bottom -** The Mavs celebrate their sweep over Missouri Southern on Wednesday night.

ALL PHOTOS BY MICHELLE BISHOP

## UNO tames Lions, win first ever MIAA volleyball game

MICHELLE BISHOP  
PHOTO EDITOR

UNO opened MIAA conference play by sweeping Missouri Southern 25-15, 25-21, 25-22 Wednesday night in front of 364 fans at the Sapp Fieldhouse.

The Mavericks snapped a three-game losing skid, improving their record to 5-6 overall and 1-0 in the Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletic Association. Missouri Southern fell to 4-6 and 0-1.

In a well-rounded effort against the Lions, the Mavs held a 78 to 63 edge in digs and a 7 to 5 advantage in blocks. The Lions were held to a .088 attack percentage.

"We are very, very excited. This is our first conference win in our first conference game," junior outside hitter Sara

Kampschnieder said. "We're really feeling good about it and hopefully it puts our hopes in a higher spot than they were."

Kampschnieder collected her third-straight double-double with 14 kills and 10 digs to lead UNO.

Sophomore setter Jamie Tooley picked up a double-double with 34 assists and 17 digs, while directing the UNO offense to a .239 hitting percentage.

Junior Kayla Jansen tied Tooley with a match-high 17 digs as five Mavs collected double-digit dig totals.

"I felt that we did a really good job," Kampschnieder said. "Our passers were there, our middles were on time. Everything was going well, so it made it easier for the outsides to put the ball away."

Junior middle blocker Ellen Thommes hit .435 with 11 kills and a match-high four blocks.

The Mavs played without outside hitter Kelli Goesser. During a game last Saturday, the junior landed on another player's foot and badly sprained a ligament in her foot; Goesser is out indefinitely.

"It's one of those things. If she's back, she's back; if not, we're going to have to play big," head coach Rose Shires said.

The Mavs hit the road Friday for a 7 p.m. conference match at No. 16 Pittsburg State. UNO will play at Southwest Baptist at 2 p.m. on Saturday.

"This weekend, we've never been to the schools. We've played the schools, but never been to them," Shires said. "I've seen Pittsburg play; I've seen Southwest Baptist play. It's going to be some tough matches, so we have to play hard on the road in the MIAA."

## Mavericks hit road this weekend against Missouri Southern

MICHELLE BISHOP  
PHOTO EDITOR

Missouri Southern, picked to finish seventh in the MIAA preseason poll, will be UNO's first test on the road as the Mavs travel to Joplin, Mo., for a 6 p.m. game Saturday.

The Mavericks easily handled Emporia State last Saturday to pick up their first Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletic Association win 41-20, but their opponent on Saturday should provide more of a challenge.

The Lions (2-1) battled Division II No. 7 Pittsburg State down to the final seconds last Saturday in a wet and windy game. A two-yard touchdown pass with 16 seconds left gave Pittsburg State a 21-14 win.

The Mavs, picked to finish second in the MIAA preseason poll, will face Missouri Southern for the first time in school history.

"It gives us a challenge. We're coming in there and not knowing what they might do," linebacker Jeff Souder said after last week's win. "They're also wondering, 'What's UNO going to do?' They can run and they can pass; they're not used to our game. If they see us on film, they still have

to play against us and stop us when we go down there."

Southern is ranked 12th nationally in Division II for rushing offense with 229.3 yards per game, total offense with 466.3 yards per game, as well as scoring offense with 41.7 points per game and 14th in sacks allowed, 0.67 per game.

"We don't know too much about their offense, but we'll watch film and that's the fun in the game not knowing what to expect and making plays," Souder said.

UNO (3-0) remained ranked No. 5 in the Division II Coaches' Poll released Tuesday.

The Mavs will bring a potent offense into Joplin that currently leads the MIAA in scoring offense at 45 points per game and rushing offense with 232 yards per game. UNO also boasts the fifth-highest scoring offense in Division II.

"I think this team is going to be a fun team to travel with," head coach Pat Behrns said after the Emporia State game. "It's always a challenge to go play, especially at new places. I've never been to Joplin, Mo.; never played Missouri Southern, so I'm looking forward to it."

The five-and-a-half hour bus trip to the southwest corner of Missouri is a welcome change for the Mavs. All of UNO's MIAA opponents are located in Kansas and



Brian McNeill finds some running room during last week's win over Emporia State. The Maverick offense is averaging 45 points a game. (MICHELLE BISHOP/THE GATEWAY)

Missouri.

"Last year we had Washington and Minnesota. I'm excited about these three, four-hour drives," Souder said. "A lot of big guys back there, stinky and hungry; it's not too fun back there."



## University brings poets for reading series



STEVE COUFAL  
STAFF WRITER

*Melissa Kwansy, the 2007 Joy Harjo Award winning poet, speaks on campus on Wednesday as part of the Missouri Valley Reading Series.*  
(KIRBY KAUFMAN/THE GATEWAY)

The UNO Writers' Workshop and the College of Communication, Fine Arts and Media will again be hosting its annual Missouri Valley Reading Series this fall.

Five authors will be attending this year, including the 2008's Guggenheim Fellow, Debra Earling and UNO English professor John Price. The series kicked off Wednesday with the 2007 Joy Harjo Award winning poet Melissa Kwansy.

Recently, The Gateway had opportunity to catch up with assistant professor Miles Waggener, the director of the series.

**Q:** So what criteria do you look for when selecting the authors for the series? Is it pretty much whatever you enjoy or are there certain traits and aspects you're looking for?

**A:** It depends. I like to find writers who are of interest of students who are creative writing students. Partly, I like to get writers who, what they do resonates with what student writers are doing and also the interests and needs of the community. I am interested in partnering with other departments on campus.

**Q:** Just to backtrack, what is the Missouri Valley Reading

Series, if people don't know?

**A:** The Missouri Valley Reading Series is, the official answer is, it's a 35-year tradition. We've been inviting at the BFA program and creative writing here at UNO we have been inviting writers to come and read for 35 years.

Our founding faculty member Richard Duggin started this, and he invited some very famous writers. He was able to invite people like Charles Bukowski, John Cheever, Tess Gallagher — poets and essayist and novelist that are very, very famous, and we try and continue the tradition. Its purpose is to provide public readings, by fantastic writers, that are open to the public and free to the public and that serve the needs of the class.

**Q:** So what made you want to get involved in the Missouri Valley Reading Series?

**A:** Well, I was hired to do it, and I ran a reading series in Arizona before I ran this one. I was a co-director of the Southwest Writers Series, in Prescott, Arizona, and I loved it. And, when I was in grad school, I invited writers to read and introduced writers.

So often it's easy to think about literature and writing as something that's always found in books, but its alive and there are writers out there that are getting up in the morning and going to work as writers and producing new things, and it makes it far less abstract for student if they get to encounter the writer up front.

**Q:** Do you have any favorite authors and or moments of readings. Some moments in the series that stick out in your mind?

**A:** I have only been here for two years, but some favorite moments — I love the double billing, of James Jay and Zachary Schomburg read together. Their poetry was so different and it was so much fun. The poetry was funny in very different ways. And the class was really enthusiastic about it. Everyone really seemed to enjoy it.

My favorite moment overall, in general with the reading series, is when UNO student, community members, and the writer all together engaged in what the writer has to offer.

## Omaha welcomes group with middle school aged crowd

REVIEW BY  
TIM GANN  
CONTRIBUTOR

Walking into the Slowdown Sunday, the first thing I notice is a gaggle of junior high and high school students standing around a small stage while their parents sit at the bar.

The back of the room is lined with bright colored merchandise. Band members are dispersed among the souvenirs as youths spend their allowance earnings and ask to get their pictures taken with musicians.

Unlike a typical night at the Slowdown, tonight the venue won't make much money from its bar.



The scene resembles a high school dance, as teens take eager group pictures and mingle over a background of top 40 music. The room looks like Urban Outfitters exploded as concert-goers sport bright colored hoodies, white belts and scarves.

SEE **SLOWDOWN:** PAGE 6

# ■■■■■■■■■■ PARKING UPDATE! ■■■■■■■■■■

*Parking stalls are still available in lots J and L.*

*Commuter students, faculty and staff may purchase*

*a permit/access card on a first come, first serve*

*basis. The two lots will not be over-sold. The permit*

*for lots J and L will be valid only in lots J and L. The*

*permits will also be honored in the appropriate lots*

*at the Pacific Street and Center Street locations.*

■■■■■■■■■■ Contact Campus Security at 554.2648 for more information ■■■■■■■■■■



FROM **SLOWDOWN:** PAGE 5

Soon enough, a group of guys come from the back of the room and make their way to the stage. The crowd recognizes the group as the headlining band from Las Vegas, The Cab.

The band members are dressed like they are about to do a photo shoot with their moppy hair, skinny jeans and vests.

The band uses an extravagant entrance for such a small room. Music suddenly booms, while the crowd screams and jumps.

You can't really blame them. The Cab recently appeared on FNMTV, and it has been named "The Band You Need to Know 2008" by Alternative Press since the release of its debut album, "Whisper War."

The "Why So Serious? Tour," the band's first headlining tour, seems to have confidence running high.

The band starts off with its latest single, "I'll Run," and the teens go crazy. Cell phones shoot up in the air as they try to take pictures and jump at the same time.

The Cab has a strong stage presence for such a small venue. Alex DeLeon, the lead singer uses every opportunity for hand gestures and crowd participation. Cash Colligan on bass guitar bounces around with his faux hawk perfectly gelled.

Every single person in the crowd seems to know all the lyrics. Each song is polished. DeLeon's steady voice is reminiscent of Patrick Stump from Fall Out Boy, or any pop rock band, for that matter.

A funny thing happens between each song of The Cab's set. The lead singer chats with audience while the keyboardist plays cheesy bittersweet background music. Soon, the singer starts talking about how he hates tea. Then I'm just confused.

All of the sudden, the band starts the next song titled "That 70s Song." DeLeon proclaims this is the dancing song of the night. The song is full of cliché funk riffs, but the crowd seems to eat it up.

One thing is for sure: these guys know their stuff. This is especially true for the guitarist, Ian Crawford – the dude can play a mean guitar solo.

At this point, the band decides not to play the encore charade and stays on stage for the last song. A quick 45 minutes has passed and the singer makes one last attempt to sell some more merchandise.

The Cab ends the set with "Bounce" while the audience appropriately bounces along.

After a night of flashbacks of my junior high years, I head to my car. On my way, I notice the band members standing outside talking about their performance.

DeLeon is ecstatically talking about the crowd's enthusiasm. Not including me, Omahans must have left a good impression on The Cab.

FROM **ALCOHOL:** PAGE 1

Mothers Against Drunk Driving, Insurance Institute for Highway Safety, American Medical Association and the National Transportation Safety Board have all expressed doubt that lowering the drinking age would be an effective to curb underage drinking.

The argument for lowering the drinking age to 18 from 21, however, is a simple one. There is a culture of binge drinking on campus. The only legal venue for students is abstinence, which doesn't work. Students still drink.

The arguments criticizing the Amethyst Initiative are simple as well. They say that the drinking age of 21 does work. Each side claims certain data backs up their argument.

Wyndham Jones, a junior secondary education major, thinks the Amethyst Initiative is a good idea. People who are under the drinking age will drink, he said, because they think that is what they are suppose to do when they move out and go to college.

"Since they are told for so many years that it's wrong to do," Jones said, "as soon as they can do it, they overdo it."

Jones said that minors already have the ability to get alcohol. Increased access to alcohol is one of the major points made against the Amethyst proposal.

"They have to drive around in a car and drink because it's not legal for them to drink," Jones said.

If people could drink legally there might be less irresponsibility, Jones said. But even he wasn't convinced, saying "it would take a long time to go into effect" before really making a difference in young peoples' drinking habits.

Lisa Wells, a senior studio art major, said the illegality of drinking under the age of 21 doesn't deter people committed to drinking.

"People who are 18 and want to drink are going to do it regardless if it's legal or not," she said.

Wells pointed out when was in Spain, it was legal for her to drink, even though she wasn't 21. Nevertheless, being of legal age in Europe did not make her want to drink excessively.

After the trip, she still enjoyed a glass of red wine with dinner even though she wasn't of legal age in the United States, Wells said.

Still, Wells doubted if perhaps the U.S. has too much of a consumer culture to have the moderation she observed overseas.

"I don't know if it could be like a European country [in the United States]," Wells said, "because we don't have the attitudes they have there."

Wells said environment has everything to do with irresponsible drinking, too. Changing the drinking age from 21 to 18 might not be as effective as some think, but if drinking were introduced by the right people to younger people, they might be more responsible.

"You want some older people around because they have a little bit more sense," Wells said, "and not the ones who buy a bunch of booze for underage people; responsible older people who can monitor it."

Neither Jones nor Wells had heard of the Amethyst Initiative before being interviewed, they said. UNO drug and alcohol education counselor Nate Bock had heard of it, though.

Bock said having the drinking age higher has increased the alcohol abstinence rate and that current standard practices show that 21 is an effective age. He also worries about high school upperclassmen being able to legally obtain alcohol, which would increase access to even younger people.

"The university exists within the community," Bock said, "it doesn't exist on an island."

Judicial Officer Kent Lavene agreed with Bock, adding that the drinking age limits are a health issue as much as a behavioral issue. Lavene said he believed the Amethyst proposal was concerned only with behavioral problems.

If the proposal was implemented, however, Lavene said it would take generations to change cultural attitudes toward drinking. Bock added that a lot of people would likely be hurt along the way.

*Editor in Chief Scott Stewart contributed to this report.*

FROM **FACEBOOK:** PAGE 1

"They shouldn't have a set number of friends and messages, and if they're going to ban somebody, they should at least give them a warning."

Facebook does indeed have limits as to number of friends and groups that a user can have. Although the company does not release these numbers, getsatisfaction.com, a customer service support Web site, reported users to be capped at 5,000 friends and 200 groups.

Sophomore Colby Jenkins said he felt that Facebook's actions were "hypocritical and illogical."

"A social networking site ought not punish people for social networking," Jenkins said.

Users who wish to invite their friends to an event via Facebook are advised to create a group, as opposed to sending out messages. When Facebook sees a person sending out a large quantity of messages containing the same text, it's likely to look like spam.

"So many people use Facebook to plan things like birthday parties or announce their wedding," said UNO junior Jacey Frye. "They shouldn't punish someone for using their site."

Facebook doesn't explicitly state in its Terms of Use the actions or consequences for having too many friends, "poking" too many people (a feature on the site where users can say a friendly hello) or joining too many groups. Users who are banned can find themselves booted for no reason, or for a reason Facebook won't divulge.

The Facebook Terms of Use only states that the Web site is "available for your personal, non-commercial use only." Users are also advised not to "upload, post, transmit, share or otherwise make available any unsolicited or unauthorized advertising, solicitations or promotional materials."

Even with the goal of stopping spammers in mind, users are still frustrated.

"You can't keep all of those contacts in your phone book," said sophomore Denise Wilcox.

She was opposed to Facebook's action, also calling them hypocritical.

Some feel that Facebook could adopt other methods of deterring spammers, rather than banning legitimate users in the battle to stop unauthorized advertising. Frye believes that Facebook could use the system that Myspace does, a Captcha test.

Captcha is a challenge-response test that screen for automated Web programs, or "robots," commonly used by spammers. The test tries to determine whether a human is actually at the keyboard trying to log in.

"You know those little numbers and letters that you can't read correctly half the time?" Frye said. "I'd much rather type those in than be banned for having too many friends."

FROM **TRIAL:** PAGE 1

prosecutors entered Exhibit 26 into evidence. It was a photo taken by police showing a lifeless Williams in the driver's seat of her car.

Cobb broke down upon seeing the exhibit. From the gallery, Gunter let out a soft cry. Others – the families of both Williams and Bormann – stifled cries of their own.

How had it come to this? That, and a myriad of other questions, floated around the gallery as the next witness took the stand.

For Gunter, though, the knowledge of her daughter's slaying came only after persistent denial.

Around 10 p.m. on Jan. 20, William's mother said she had been folding laundry and listening to music on the television when she realized Williams hadn't returned home yet.

"I kept calling her cell phone, but it kept going to voicemail," Gunter said. Cobb later testified that she, too, had been calling Williams and that it was unusual for her not to pick her up phone.

After her husband, Joel Gunter, got home from work, the Gunters noticed that a detective had stuck a calling card in their door, Gunter testified. Even after detectives called and said they needed to come to her home, she hadn't suspected anything was wrong with Williams.

Gunter said she figured it was probably a problem with one of her neighbors.

As the detectives arrived, Gunter said Cobb had just pulled up and was obviously crying. When Gunter asked Cobb what was wrong, Gunter testified, Cobb said: "Oh my god, you don't know."

Gunter began crying from the witness box as she recounted how detectives confirmed her identity and told her of the shooting. She insisted that Williams was fine, and told the jury she kept repeatedly calling William's cell phone.

Williams, however, never picked up. "I just didn't believe it," Gunter sobbed.

*Staff writer Taylor Muller contributed to this report.*

A LITTLE BIT  
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**FRESHER**  
~ A WHOLE LOT ~  
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# Bidding for coed's virginity reaches \$275,000 level

PAUL RIOS & CODY KITAURA  
THE STATE HORNET

SACRAMENTO, Calif. – A torrent of media coverage is swirling after a Sacramento State graduate announced she was auctioning off her virginity.

The 22-year-old, who is using the pseudonym Natalie Dylan for safety reasons, announced the decision to sell her v-card on the Howard Stern radio show on Sept. 9.

“We live in a capitalist society,” Dylan said on the show. “Why shouldn’t I be allowed to capitalize on my virginity?”

Dennis Hof, owner of the Nevada brothel Moonlite Bunny Ranch, brought Dylan to Stern’s attention. Dylan approached Hof with her sister, Avia, who worked at Hof’s ranch for three weeks two years ago.

“I’ve seen a lot of crazy things, but this is very unique,” Hof said in a phone interview.

With hundreds of offers already and bidding up to \$275,000, Hof also claimed that a “rock star” and a “well-known male actor” contacted him and told him that they would outbid any other offers.

The amount of media attention did not surprise Hof, but Dylan, who could not be reached for comment, told CBS13 News that the coverage was a little overwhelming.

“I didn’t expect it to take off this much,” Dylan said. “I’m a big fan of anonymity and I did not expect any of this happen.”

Hof said that Dylan had already passed a polygraph test verifying the authenticity of her chastity, but added that she is also willing to submit to a physical examination.

“I think I’m very intuitive, and I can sense if a person is genuine or not, so I’m definitely going to be looking for that,” Dylan told CBS13 News.

Dylan said she first got the idea to auction her virginity from a news story she read on the Internet about a Peruvian girl who attempted a similar cash out. The girl received an offer for \$1.5 million from a Canadian man, but didn’t go through with it. Dylan is pursuing the idea largely because of debt incurred when her father allegedly took out student loans in her name.

Dylan earned her bachelor’s degree in women’s studies from Sacramento State and said she plans to use the money to finance her graduate studies in marriage and family therapy.

Hof defended Dylan’s choice to put herself out in the public and said that he wouldn’t be surprised to see more of this in the future.

“Once you get past the moral issue, all this is, is a girl trying to get through school,” Hof said.

The auction will be conducted through and consummated at the Bunny Ranch, Hof said. Hof stands to receive 50 percent of the winning bid, but was uncertain how much the auction would pull in.

“I don’t have any idea, but it’s gonna be a bunch,” Hoff said. “Maybe you should get the school – get everybody to kick in [some money] and send the homecoming king down here.”

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FROM DOCUMENT: PAGE 3

Week.”

Issues varying from consumerism and xenophobia to lapel pins and war were discussed at length. Students’ interpretations of the reading were not limited in any fashion.

“There is tremendous gain for UNO whenever students become involved on campus,” Sryek explained. “This project gave students the stage, helped them find their voice and provided an active audience.”

Towards the end of the session, a group of sixth grade students from Western Hills Magnet School were ushered in by their teacher Tina Buda. The students were guests of the Service Learning Academy at the university to experience campus life for a day.

The sixth graders had been recently studying the constitution in their history classes and added to the Constitution Week display with an *cappella* performance of the preamble to the Constitution.

Buda explained that the children were accustomed to performing their routine with props such as flags, but they made the best of their opportunity in front of the college audience.

In the end, the events of Constitution Week garnered limited attention, but provided a reasonable impact on those who participated.

“It’s an effective way to get students involved on campus, and it’s fun, too,” Syrek said. “We’ll gladly participate in this event as long as our services are needed.”

# Wisconsin settles lawsuit with Washburn

MALLORY CYBULSKI  
BADGER HERALD

MADISON, Wis. – The University of Wisconsin has reached an agreement with Washburn University, a school of 7,200 students in Topeka, Kan. Wisconsin said Washburn’s logo infringed on its “Motion W” logo.

According to Casey Nagy, executive assistant to Chancellor Biddy Martin, the settlement did not involve monetary compensation. Instead, Washburn agreed to tweak its logo so that it differs from that of UW.

“Because of the nature of a compromise, neither party is fully satisfied,” Nagy said.

But he added UW achieved its goal in preserving the “stand-alone” iconic quality of its logo, and Washburn maintains what he called a desirable mark.

“The decision to enter into the agreement was a business decision based on the high costs of litigating trademark disputes, and it is not an acknowledgement of infringement on the Wisconsin mark,” Washburn officials said in a statement Tuesday.

UW initiated conversations roughly two years ago concerning the similarities between its logo and Washburn’s.

Washburn University agreed to modify its logo by adding a graphic detail to the symbol. Options include the university name or a representation of “Ichabod,” Washburn’s mascot.

Washburn is a member of the Mid-American Intercollegiate Athletic Association, the same conference that UNO belongs to.

Washburn director of university relations Dena Anson

said with legal action there is “a lot of exchange back and forth,” and it’s not always an immediate solution.

“We have a graphic artist working on it right now,” Anson said. “Hopefully, it will be finished within a few days.”

Once the new logo is finalized, Washburn will undergo a transition period. The bookstore and athletic apparel stores will each be designated a specific amount of time to gradually “phase out” all merchandise containing the old logo.

“I don’t think there will be any problems because student bodies like fresh, new looks,” Anson said. “The addition of the new element will give a new image for Washburn. We embrace and welcome the change.”

Nagy described the purpose of the negotiations as an effort to protect the integrity of the “W” logo.

“Nothing really works in that linear fashion,” Nagy said.

“Various times we expressed the view, Washburn expressed its view, and we would have a conversation.”

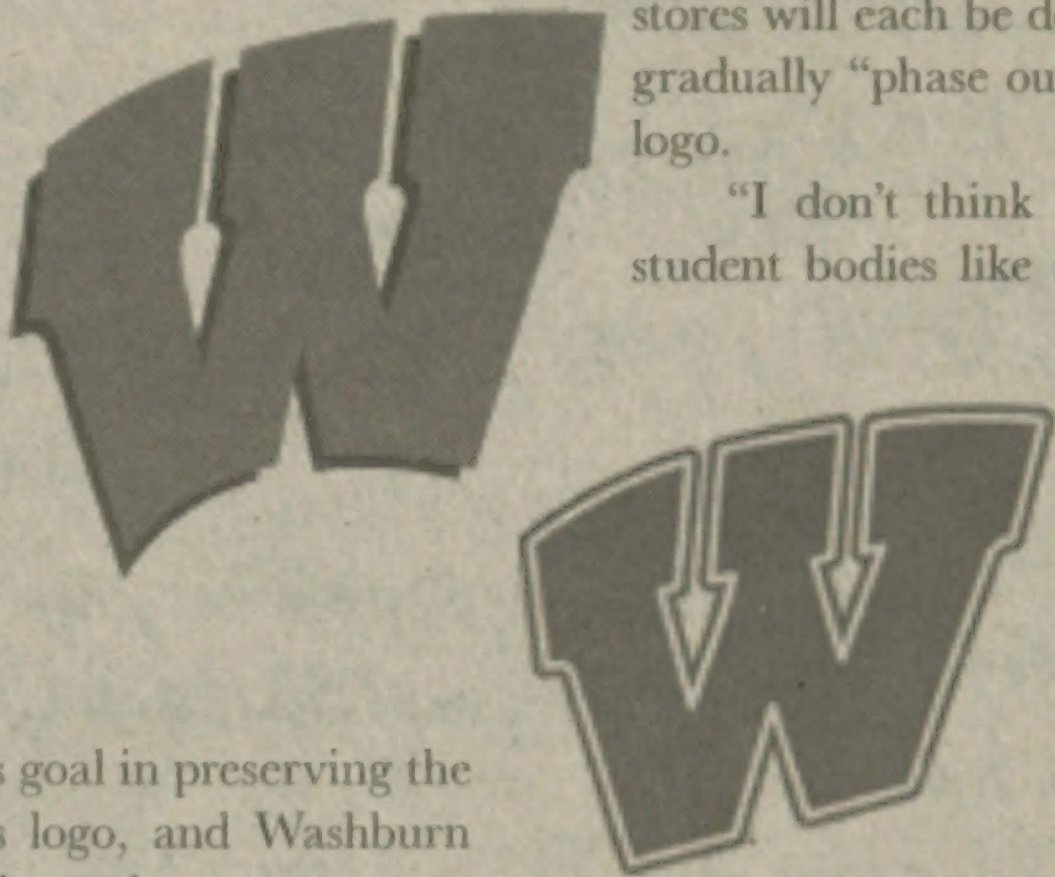
But what led to the lawsuit was an overall lack of significant progress.

“Both sides thought that we had made some progress toward the issue of concern, and over time it seemed that we were not truly making that progress,” Nagy said.

Had UW abandoned the effort to protect its logo, Nagy said UW runs the risk of not being able to protect it in the future.

Nagy said the lawsuit, filed in February, was a last resort, calling it “the least desirable method next to doing nothing.”

“It’s expensive, it’s uncertain, and it’s not always the most useful method,” Nagy said.



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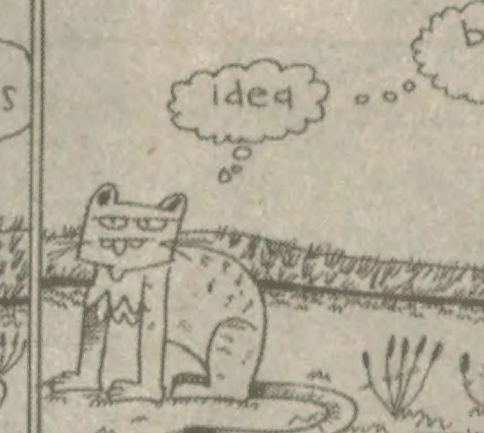
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